

Docket No. A2011-66

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on September 7, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Meridian post office located in Meridian, New York. The petition for review was filed online by Beth Dishaw (Petitioner) who also requests an application for suspension.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than September 22, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: September 13, 2011

Attachment

A2011266

Postal Regulatory Commission
Submitted 9/6/2011 8:26:21 PM
Filing ID: 75445
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Beth Dishaw
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September 5, 2011

Secretary of the Commission
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200, West Tower
Washington DC 20268

Regarding the Decision by the USPS to Close the Meridian. NY Post Office.

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to appeal the decision of the USPS to close the Meridian, NY Post Office and request that the Postal Regulatory Commission review this decision. I believe that the USPS decision to close our post office was arbitrary and capricious and is not supported by substantial evidence. This decision is not in the best interests of our rural community, will represent a hardship for many postal customers in our rural village, especially seniors, and was based solely on financial concerns, contrary to the law.

While postal authorities met with Village residents and responded to our concerns in writing, their responses do not truly answer many questions we had and offer, at times, very impractical responses to valid concerns about accessing postal services. We were promised at the meeting that we would keep our Meridian address if our post office were closed, but now we have been advised that only those customers who rent a PO box in the Village of Cato will be able to keep the Meridian address and zip code. Customers who choose home delivery will have to change their address to Cato. Without a post office and an address, Meridian, an incorporated village, will lose much of its identity and will be harmed.

Currently, our post office shows a profit, with sales exceeding costs by several tens of thousands of dollars. The USPS cost savings projections regarding this decision are based on the idea that there will be no loss of sales due to the closing, which is not a valid assumption on their part. They have provided no evidence to support this conclusion. When customers lose convenience, they go elsewhere, to other vendors and other mediums. Money orders can be purchased at many locations and UPS and Fedex can deliver packages. Customers can sign up for online bill payments and paperless statements where no postage is involved.

I would also like to request an application for suspension of the closing of our post office pending review by the PRC if needed. It is my understanding that this may not be necessary due to the fact that we are not a branch office or substation but since this request for suspension of closing must be made at the same time as my request for review or it will not be honored, I am requesting this also. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Dishaw